

I have subscribed to XM Satellite Radio for two years and have come to rely on it for news and entertainment. XM's instant traffic service means I can tune in any time of the day and night to find out what is happening - while my "local" broadcasters play commercials and music presented by pre-recorded out of town announcers. If an Amber Alert happens, the XM digital display will tell you any time of the day or night, not just the 4 to 8 hours per day that someone happens to be live on my "local" station or for the sole 30 seconds that the scratchy unintelligible EAS alert that the automated FM stations play. The beauty of XM's traffic and weather service is that it is always there and it's proven to be very accurate. Traffic and weather reports on FM and AM aren't as in depth - usually the commercial that the traffic reporter reads is longer than the traffic information even on the big news station, KTRH - and at night or on the weekend you can't find any reports on the FM or AM band at all. XM is always there for me.

I chose XM for its quality over the bland dreck that passes for radio in Houston. I can hear music and conversation that can no longer be found on the FM or AM dial. I'm hearing different points of view and political views that you can't hear on the AM talk stations. NAB's petition 04-160 is simply the radio industry's attempt to stop satellite radio from providing the service that the "local" broadcasters fail to do.

If the NAB succeeds in stopping XM from providing the traffic channels, the "local" broadcasters will not get me back. Until FM and AM radio begin to actually serve the community, I'll be listening to the service that has stepped in to fill the void the "local" broadcasters left behind - XM.

I urge you to reject petition 04-160.